

## Ladies' Auxiliary Societies—Con.

LUTHERAN Y. P. S. C. E.

The Y. P. S. C. E. of the Lutheran church meets every Sunday evening at seven o'clock. The society will be pleased to have any who may be interested in the work meet with them. The season is coming when this work seems to lag, and the young people need your hearty encouragement and assistance.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF UNITARIAN AND OTHER LIBERAL CHRISTIAN WOMEN.

An organization of women with headquarters at Boston. Its objects are religious, charitable and educational. The cheerful letter exchange, the N. O. Mission and study class committee are some of its good work. Branches have been established in the New England, middle, southern and western states. Only four years old, there are 132 branches with a membership of 5,982. The local branch is named in honor of Mrs. E. J. Cogswell, a name that brings many pleasant memories to the old timers of North Platte.

EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The Epworth League, the young people's society of the Methodist church, will celebrate its sixth anniversary May 15th, 1895. Its growth and development during the six years of its existence, is certainly marvelous, numbering now nearly 1,000,000 members.

Its object is to promote intelligent and vital piety in the young members and friends of the church, to aid them in the attainment of purity of heart, and constant growth in grace and to train them in works of mercy and help.

Its motto is "Look up, Lift up."

The local chapter in North Platte is now about four and one half years old. While it has not grown in numbers as rapidly, perhaps, as might be desired, its development along lines of greater importance has been of untold value to the church, the young members in particular. The work of the various departments have shown careful thought and earnestness of purpose. The department of "spiritual work" is perhaps, the most important, it really being the foundation of all the work. It has charge of the devotional work of the society. The "Mercy and Help" department follows so closely it is difficult to decide where one stops and the other begins. Its work is to look after and provide for any who are sick or needy.

The department of "Literary Work" has charge of the reading circle. The department of "Social Work" is considered by some to be of most importance. This department has solved one important question. It has proven that amusements of a harmless nature can be furnished the young people of the church, that the most critical and straight-laced can be entertained with profit. Our finances are kept up entirely by contributions from the members. In the less than five years our local chapter has raised between two and three hundred dollars.

The values of the Epworth League cannot be overestimated. And the man or woman, who has no sympathy and no kind words for the young people's societies of the different churches, is a "back number," and their opinion considered of no importance in these days of push and progress. All friends are invited to attend the devotional meetings of the Epworth League held each Sunday evening, one hour before service.

THE BUTTERFLY CLUB.

Once upon a time, just a few years ago, a sociable little woman sat alone with her sewing, and she thought came to her, as it had come many a time before, how pleasant it would be if her friends were gathered about her, each with her own needle work, while a chat should go around, and perhaps an effort should be made to help each other onward and upward; perhaps some one who knew a little more than others along any certain line, should impart that wisdom, and so in time each would have done her share toward helping the others. Then thinking along a little further it seemed as though it would be a fitting conclusion to such an afternoon to have a social cup of tea together. Like a wise little woman who took counsel with another and talked the matter over with her nearest neighbor, the result was that each should invite those with whom she most frequently met, to come together and arrange for a series of meetings during that winter. Not all the personal friends of either could be invited, because that would have made the gathering too unwieldy for accommodation in the most of our homes. Fifteen ladies agreed to try to make the afternoons so spent, during the fall and winter of 1893-94 both pleasant and profitable; so well did they succeed that the meetings were continued into other years. This is the way that the Butterfly Club originated, having its first meeting on the 23d of Oct., 1890, being the birthday anniversary of its founder. The regular weekly meetings are discontinued for a time, but we come together sometimes in the same old way, and not a small part of the present enjoyment of these occasions consists in calling to mind those happy times. At those meetings music, regularly edited papers, special articles on given subjects were presented; selections were read, discussions upon topics given out before, and various other intellectual methods were used to further mutual improvement. Sometimes, too, by way of a little merriment we indulged in the fad of the time, including picking potatoes, and that "innocent game" of tickle-winks. Remembering that the "partner of the firm" represented by a nob lady was debarrd from the advantages and pleasures incident to our afternoons we invited them to join us one evening, when the "Feast of reason, and the flow of soul" was supplemented by a feast of good things for the palate.

Many and loud were the praises bestowed upon us by those same guests, for the pleasant evening with its toasts and responses. Having in mind all the time that we should endeavor to be useful to others outside our little circle that desire crystallized in the charity entertainment, a combination of supper and literary program, held in the court house on the evening of Washington's Birthday, 1894. We invited help from others and right generous was the response. The court house was crowded, and we were informed by one who did not care to enter the crowd, but who looked on, that as many people went away as found entrance.

One hundred and twenty-seven dollars were taken in, and when all bills were paid there remained a balance of one hundred and fourteen dollars which was distributed among the needy. We congratulate ourselves upon having caused a few comforts to appear in homes of want, upon having made it possible for some to attend church and Sunday-school, upon having formed ties of friendship which we are persuaded nothing but death will sever, and which have found expression in many ways, and last, but not least, do we congratulate ourselves upon the fact that never once did that unpleasant form of gossip called scandal enter our meetings. The great reaper has gathered in two from the families represented in our club, and four of our members have moved away. What we did, and what we did not that we were supposed to do, would make a book; but we never chewed gum save once, and the exigency of the occasion demanded it; then like every thing else that we did, we chewed gum for a purpose, and achieved the object in view.

## EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

The Western Nebraska Educational Association held its third annual meeting in Sidney April 26th and 27th.

This association was organized in Ogallala in 1893. Its second meeting was held in North Platte, and this, its third meeting at Sidney, fully proves that it is a permanent institution. It comprises the counties of Lincoln, Keith, Perkins, Deuel, Cheyenne, Kimball and Scott's Bluffs.

The enrollment this year was 125, and the audience at every session must have numbered several hundred. Seven county superintendents were present. Lincoln county was represented by fourteen teachers and by several members of the North Platte High school. It was represented upon the program by a paper upon deductive and inductive methods of teaching by Miss Emma Peckham of North Platte, a paper upon teaching, an art, by Mrs. W. D. Page, of Wellfleet, and by a round table conference of high school principals, conducted by Mr. Chas. Barber, of North Platte.

Mr. and Mrs. Goudy, the ex-state superintendent and his wife, who were really the prime movers in the organization of the association, were present and added much to the enjoyment and profit of the meeting. The present state superintendent, Mr. Corbett, and the Hon. W. E. Andrews, U. S. Representative from the Fifth district, were also with us.

The Sidney people gave the teachers a most cordial and hospitable welcome, the weather was beautiful; the program good; the music excellent in every respect; the presiding officer, Mr. Cromer, proved a most efficient and business like chairman; the new hats and gowns were pretty, and the teachers felt that it was good to be teachers.

Such a meeting in western Nebraska after these two years of discouragement and depression was very indicative. Surprising to those who think of us as a desolate and forsaken people, but really indicative of the courage, of the hopefulness, of the strength that still remains to enrich and empower our state. Mr. Goudy, who has seen much of educational meetings, pronounced this as simply wonderful in numbers, in intelligence, and in the scholarly character of the papers and discussions.

The government property, formerly a military fort, was visited by the teachers while in Sidney, and it seemed to be the unanimous opinion that all selfish and local aspirations should be cast aside, and the whole strength of western Nebraska be concentrated in the effort to obtain that property from the government for a state normal school.

We must have such a school in the western part of the state, but the trouble has always been that not enough strength has been centered in one locality to obtain any concessions from the legislature. If those magnificent grounds at Sidney and the buildings which could be used almost exactly as they are, could be obtained, the success of the school would be assured from the start. Our young people in western Nebraska are eager for better school advantages. Why not use every effort to have a state normal school established at Sidney?

Several changes in our school laws were made by the last legislature, the most important being the law regarding school warrants, and the law relating to free attendance at high schools.

Hereafter the school district treasurer is required to keep a warrant register, which shall show the date and number of every warrant presented for payment. These warrants shall bear seven per cent interest from the date of their registration, and shall be paid in the order of their presentation.

The bill providing free attendance at high schools provides that any pupil having a certificate signed by the county superintendent, showing that said pupil has completed the common school course of study, shall be entitled to admission in the nearest high school to his place of residence, and that his tuition shall be paid from a county school fund which shall be formed by an annual levy made by the county board, said levy not to exceed one mill.

This provision will doubtless help to strengthen the interest in our course of study for country schools, which is receiving more and more attention from parents, school boards, and teachers. There are now upon the records of this office the names of ten pupils who have completed the course, taken the examination sent out by the county superintendent and received the certificate. Four others have taken part of the work.

The multiplicity of the text books, and the desire on the part of parents to have their children study too many subjects is a serious evil in our schools. We have primary arithmetic, primary geography, primary history, primary grammar, primary physiology, and it is not an unusual thing to find children reading in the third and fourth readers who are actually supplied, through the munificence of our text books law with all of these books, and are trying to recite in six or seven different subjects daily. The result is that the teacher's daily program contains for all grades twenty-five or even thirty classes. Five and ten minutes is the limit of time possible for a recitation, lessons are very short and studied and recited in a childish, superficial manner.

When the child is old enough to take up the larger text books on the same subjects his interest is not so great, because the cream, the newness of the subject, has been taken off. The lessons are very hard and far beyond the mental acumen because in those months of desultory wandering among so many subjects he has not learned to study, to apply himself, to think. He becomes discouraged and the text books and the teachers are blamed. He stops out of school altogether, or possibly attempts to enter the graded schools of the town, and finds that he must go away back into the primary grades because he has no foundation in reading, language and numbers.

Fewer daily lessons, more time for study and recitations, and much more thorough work we must have in our schools.

School District No. 23, recently voted bonds and sold them readily at par. After the sale was made another broker offered a premium upon them. This does not look as if faith in western Nebraska investments were entirely lost, and it wasn't an irrigated district either!

A mysterious and occult artifice, one Hyman, has recently made two from four teachers, instead of Mr. Lewis and Miss Elder, Mr. Campbell and Miss Hutchinson we have Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. Campbell. Such combinations threaten devastation to our ranks, and the county superintendent thinks she should be consulted before such action is allowed.

The matter of daily attendance has been occupying my attention lately. For the purpose of comparison I have found the per cent. of the average daily attendance in the total enrollment of each school as the reports have come in. Last year four schools stood 100, but they were very small and each composed of children from single families, so could hardly be compared with the others. Excepting for them, the highest report came from District 69, near Wallace.

The next highest was District 53, near Maywood, and the third was the Sturgis school in District 5, near North Platte. The lowest was District 91. This year's reports are not all in, but so far excepting for three 100, under the single family condition, District 54, near Myrtle, and District 93, near Wallace, take the lead with a per cent. of 92.3. District 44 near North Platte, stands next and District No. 79 is lowest.

I find very few reports of perfect attendance during the term. From ten reports taken up at random, having an aggregate enrollment of 156 I find but ten pupils who have attended every day. I realize that much irregular attendance in this county is unavoidable, but I realize too that many times children are kept from school and allowed to remain at home, for reasons that show plainly that parents have no idea of what a serious interruption to school work is a single day's absence.

## Short Items.

A pleasant incident recurs to me in the life of President Buchanan at his home in "Wheatland," Lancaster, Pa., in the courtship of his niece, Harriet Lane, after she became the affianced of Mr. Johnson. In one of his visits to the house upon his return for the night, she handed him as was then the custom a lighted candle, exclaiming as he took it, "Philopoeans," much to Mr. Johnson's amusement who graciously marked the episode by the gift of a brooch made to order, upon the face of which was tiny white candles in onyx with rubies for flame—an unique souvenir of a happy occasion.

Is there luck in the letter J? This question headed an item in one of the New York papers, followed by a list of the names of millionaires in New York City who had achieved success. Money and success in New York are always synonymous—but all the names in the list were distinguished by the majestic letter "J." The statement provokes idle comment and comparison. How is it in North Platte—is there luck in the letter J? It probably figures largely in the signatures of our prominent men, but is not our town noted rather for its general prosperity than that of the millionaire, whose name is marked with the talemantic letter J.

Have you ever noticed the pious manner of certain persons in church? Their devout attitude, power of concentration and respectful attention seem such a rebuke to your wandering thoughts that you would give all you possess to keep your mind in touch with the speaker and thoughts celestial—which in spite of your best efforts are of the earth, earthly. The pose of a head, the new bonnet, the flutter of a ribbon, the cut of a gown are all bewildering distractions in things terrestrial that meet the eye in the trifling and perplexing travel of thought when it finally rests with envy on one of the dear pious souls whose intense interest in the speaker sends your thoughts quickly home in utter disgust and dissatisfaction with yourself. To one of the dear devotees I said: "You were much interested in the sermon, were you not? Your eyes never wander, you seem to drink in every word." In dire confusion she said: "I confess it with shame. It was not the sermon, but the balancing of my weekly accounts which so engrossed me." "Oh, trust her not," I said. "How little we know what is in the heart or mind of man. Household, business and worldly cares follow us, even to church. Even so, it is a good place to carry them, if perchance, we carry away the chance seed in seed."

Ruskin says: "We are foolish and without excuse, foolish in speaking of the superiority of one sex to the other, as if they could be compared in similar things." Each has what the other has not; each completes the other and is completed by the other; they are in nothing alike, and the happiness and perfection of both depends on each asking and receiving from the other what the other only can give.

The effort to revive the use of the old-time candlesticks, brass or silver highly polished, with snuffers and trays does not meet with much success except as ornamental relics of a by-gone era. There was perhaps a little of furniture in which the ancients combined the useful with the beautiful to so great an extent as in their candlesticks and lamps. The candle-brum with its silver branches were very elaborate affairs in "ye olden times." The soft dim light of the tallow-dip and the glow from the hearth are sweet dim pictures of mellow light in the mind that would fain forget "the demon of smoke and smell" which followed the snuffing out.

## To the Girls.

A recent short but pithy article considering the overworked and consequently nervous woman of today, ends with this most excellent advice: "Young man don't ask that girl to marry you till you can keep her." While the young man is getting a small capital with which to start, shall not the young woman be looking after the capital also?

There is no business in which a trained worker is not more successful than an untrained worker. A merchant, wishing a book-keeper, considers the applicant who has had a thorough course in book-keeping and who has a practical knowledge of business principles. The teacher is not employed unless she can show not only the needed scholarship but also professional training. What would be thought of the aspirations of a type-writer whose only experience had been an occasional hour's play on a machine. And yet that type-writer is about as competent as are the majority of girls, whose training for housekeeping has been a life-long "good time" and the fun of baking a cake, or who have worked in a shop and whose only idea of house-keeping is the "horrid kitchen."

Housekeeping is a business, and the girl who spends the time from the close of her school life to her marriage in the schoolroom, or office, or at the piano, is the one who is most likely to fail; and, taking advantage of the bankrupt laws, turn her home over to the charge of an equally incompetent "girl."

In no business is there greater need of systematic work, of care in looking after little things, of planning to avoid the impossible necessity of doing "six things at once," of planning so that certain other six things shall be doing at once, in things matter it requires the oversight of a train dispatcher to bring each one of the six to perfection at the same moment.

A certain young woman can bake a lovely cake, her baked beans are her pride, her salad is the admiration of the entire neighborhood, and several other dishes can be successfully prepared. "But," she says, "they just won't all come out at the right time. Some will be

done and some cold before they are needed, and others are only half done when necessity compels us to eat our dinner without them."

The girl who thoroughly learns her business, who serves her apprenticeship under the direction of a competent manager as did our grandmothers, saves herself not only much of worry and disappointment, but many a dollar and does more toward helping to keep the home free from the dreaded mortgage than if she were earning so much a week with "help" in her kitchen. We often hear it said that the waste in American homes would keep the French people. This waste is largely in the homes of those untrained housekeepers who have not learned that "a penny saved is worth two pennies earned," which homely saying is true in more sense than one.

The girl who expects to be one of the fortunate housekeepers with means to afford a "divinity" in her kitchen has quite as much need to understand her business thoroughly else she cannot direct affairs, nor can she be true mistress of her own home. The much discussed "servant-girl question" will be partly solved when the lady of the house knows her business as a merchant knows his, and directs her clerks intelligently.

Young woman, while you are waiting for a young man to declare himself able to keep you, learn your business. Go at it in earnest. Take lessons of your mother for several months, and then give her a vacation, an absolute relief from all household cares, for another several months while you put in to practice what you have learned. You will be repaid in many ways. There will be the rich experience that lasts you a life-time, that will serve you a good turn in many an emergency, and that will pay you better in its returns of real happiness than the possible two hundred dollars that you hope to save out of your salary can ever do. And there will be the blessed memory of having been a joy to your mother and a pride to your father during that happiest time of your life.

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